

ACUNA CACTUS
(*Echinomastus erectocentrus* var. *acunensis*)

STATUS: Candidate

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Gray-green cactus with single plump stem and straight central spines. The cactus is less than 30 cm (12 in) high with spine clusters borne on tubercles. Tubercles have a groove on the upper surface. There are 2-3 central spines and 12 radial spines. Radial spines are dirty white with a maroon tip. Flowers are pink to purple (5.0 cm (2 in) long). Immature plants look distinctly different from mature plants. Immature plants are disc-shaped or spherical and have no central spines until they are about 38 mm (1.5 in). Fruits are pale green (tan when dry) and 1.25 cm (.5 in) long. Fruits bear black rugose (wrinkled or creased) seeds.

HABITAT: Restricted to well drained knolls and gravel ridges between major washes in Sonoran desertscrub habitat. Acuna cacti are found on granite substrates on rounded small hills at elevations ranging from 397 to 610 m (1300-2000 ft).

RANGE: Historic: Southern Arizona and northern Mexico.

Current: In Arizona found in Western Pima, Maricopa, and Pinal counties.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Habitat destruction through development which results in fragmentation and isolation of populations, past mining operations, illegal collection, and perhaps drought induced mortality.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management.

NOTES: Protected by the Arizona Native Plant Law and as a Forest Service Sensitive Species.